

228 the pair. GIBSON'S Horse and Carriage Depot, 25  
Castlereagh-street, adjoining Burt's.











further amendment to the same effect was negatived by 28 to 16.

Clause 13 was passed without amendment.

The House then resumed, and adjourned at a quarter-past eleven.

We have a very neat map of the "Riverine District," showing "the boundaries of the adjacent colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland." A pink line delineates the "Riverine District"—a designation unknown to authorised geography, but tolerably current in the Australias.

A number of gentlemen, possessing among them a stock of sheep and cattle beside which the wealth of the patriarchs would look insignificant, have turned their attention to their grievances, and found them many. They tell us that they have three millions of sheep, one hundred thousand head of cattle, and twenty-five thousand horses. The value of their investment is £5,000,000, and they transmit from the district a million's worth of stock every year. They further tell us that they number about 20,000 souls. Of course a very large proportion are employed in tending their flocks, and tending and conducting the pastoral affairs. The permanent residents—those who have an interest in the country as flockmasters and landowners—must therefore be reduced to very small dimensions.

Upon the whole then we look upon these gentlemen of the Riverine Districts as peculiarly fortunate—rich in cattle, rich in copper, and rich in expectations. We set out, therefore, with no disposition whatever to enter into their requests in the spirit of condolence or commiseration. Happy the man whose lot is cast in a country where 20,000 people can divide amongst them five millions of realised wealth. We were some time ago rather alarmed at the idea of a new separation from the poor colony of New South Wales which, like some unfortunate veteran of the African forest, is turned upon in all directions and devoured by its own offspring. There were, however, difficulties in this last separation which were too palpable to be totally ignored. It did not seem very clear that the squatters themselves would be safe in the hands of a population of 20,000, who might, upon the principle of universal suffrage, be supposed to give 5000 votes. It is possible that their dogs, like the dogs of

tion, would turn upon them and worry them, and that having acquired a title to the land in the aggregate they would lose it as individuals—that the fangs of these new proprietors of this enormous estate would be heavier than the loins of the ancient colony. It seemed also to be remarkable that they should advise a separation which would throw them entirely upon direct taxation. The Riverine Districts have no direct communication with the sea. Their Customs, therefore, would be a duplicate charge—unless, indeed, they could force the adjacent colonies to permit them to draw their supplies across their railways and other lines of communication without exacting anything in return. This probably was not anticipated, and, therefore, the Riverine Districts, from their position, are without an essential to political independence. Besides, even the arrangement proposed would not have liberated the whole population from their grievances. It must still remain a difficulty to administer justice in a country so large, with a population so sparse and without any controlling power, except in some small village capital. There are advantages in being connected with a country which has its established jurisprudence—its courts of justice—its general administration; and we suspect that the people who might live at some of these towns would be more marked as so distant from New South Wales as to be almost inconvenient in obtaining justice as ever, without the same probability of getting the justice they sought.

The truth is, the proposition to separate absolutely seems to be absurd. To have granted the control over such a territory to such a number of persons so situated would have been a confiscation of public property which nothing would have justified.

But are there no grievances in the Riverine Districts which the Government is required to redress? Undoubtedly there are. The least of those grievances is inadequate representation. It should be sorry to see a body of representatives come up in the style of some who formerly came from Queensland—selling their votes to the Government on condition of local improvements; but they are certainly entitled to a larger number than they now possess, and they are especially entitled to consideration on account of their great distance from the capital, and therefore the difficulty of representation.

The demand for greater facilities in the ad-

administration of justice seems to be also reasonable, and a resident Judge, or a person having some of the summary powers as to arrests for debt, which are conceded to a Judge, seems to be very desirable. It must be recollected that there are great difficulties in administering justice amidst a small population where large interests are involved. The jury list of a Court held in one of these pastoral districts would be very small, and verdicts would be liable to influence and personal corruption. This is a difficulty which really belongs to scanty populations, and it cannot be overcome by any imaginable arrangement. Corrupt influences in the administration of justice would be far more mischievous to the people than their liability to greater expense in obtaining it. So long as our jury system continues we can never have the administration of the law successful, excepting where there is a large and independent population. The grievance is undoubted, and anything which could be contrived to meet it ought to be granted.

The employment of public money in, however, another and a very different thing. In the first place it must be remembered by the Riverine District people that New South Wales does not obtain its proper share of the Customs, and that for the convenience of communication they derive a large part of their supplies from other colonies. They, therefore, practically pay less than New South Wales than their seeming proportion. They must also bear in mind that their population has been contributed by the elder colony to some considerable extent, and that the plantation and occupation of a new country is always a draft from that which preceded it—that advantages are realised which its predecessors have paid. If a bargain therefore is to be struck, all these things ought to be taken into account, just as every squatter in the Riverine District takes care to estimate the processes which have established him where he is as part of the real value of the run to the man who succeeds him in possession, and who is in this form spared considerable expense. We see, however, no objection to a liberal allowance of whatever proceeds may arise from these districts in their improvement, providing that all the general cost of government be fairly deducted. There seems to be something reasonable in this appropriation, and if the elder colony means to







79513



GEORGE JOBE, deceased, particulars whereof may be had gratis at the office of the said Master in Equity, Supreme Court-house, King-street, Sydney; of Mr. THOMAS JONKIN, solicitor, Elizabeth-street North, Sydney; of WILLIAM HENRY MULLEN, solicitor, West Maitland; of Mr. ROBERT PALMER ABBOTT, solicitor, King-street, Sydney; and of Mr. WALTER BOTTON, auctioneer, Singleton.

Dated this 9th day of July, A.D. 1865.

GEORGE HISSMET DUFFELL,  
Master in Equity.



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